

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7552.0020

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Silvio Cavalcanti et al.) Group Art Unit: 3761
)
Application No.: 10/765,149) Examiner: Leslie R. Deak
)
Filed: January 28, 2004)
)
For: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD) Confirmation No.: 2154
FOR MONITORING A VASCULAR)
ACCESS OF A PATIENT)
SUBJECTED TO AN)
EXTRACORPOREAL BLOOD)
TREATMENT)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a restriction requirement dated February 9, 2006, the Examiner required
restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between:

Group I - Claims 1-50 and 95-98, characterized by the Examiner as
being drawn to a device and method for monitoring a vascular
access as a part of an extracorporeal blood circuit;

Group II - Claims 51-62, characterized by the Examiner as being
drawn to a method for monitoring a vascular access without pumps
or a semipermeable membrane and varying the flow rate of at least
one fluid in the system;

Group III - Claims 63-64, characterized by the Examiner as being
drawn to a method for monitoring a vascular access with a
semipermeable membrane with no pump and varying the dialysate
flow rate; and,


Group IV - Claims 65-94, characterized by the Examiner as being drawn to a method for monitoring a vascular access with a semipermeable membrane, no pump, and varying both blood flow rate and dialysate flow rate.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-50 and 95-98, characterized by the Examiner as being drawn to a device and method for monitoring a vascular access as a part of an extracorporeal blood circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 16, 2006

By: 
Aaron L. Parker
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